

1	2	3
27.	Chandigarh	41,404
28.	D & N Haveli	7,293
29.	Daman & Diu	3,451
30.	Delhi	3,78,187
31.	Lakshadweep	986
32.	Pondicherry	99,965
		6,36,45,457

[English]

Suspension of Private Air Lines Operation

1878. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the Mumbai-based private airlines have suspended operation since January 1997;

(b) if so, the details of such airlines; and

(c) how much loss of revenue the Airport Authority of India has incurred due to suspension of above flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) M/s. Skyline - NEPC Airlines has suspended operation since January, 1997.

(c) As on 31.5.1997, an amount of Rs. 174.16 lakhs is outstanding against the said Airlines as dues of the Airport Authority of India.

Cauvery River Authority

1879. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Cauvery River Authority to oversee the implementation of the interim order of the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal;

(b) whether it is a fact that setting up of such an authority will be detrimental to Karnataka's interests as the State had already opposed the implementation of the interim order stipulating the release of 205 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the draft scheme envisaging "Cauvery River Authority" was formulated by the Central Government under Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act 1956 for implementation of the Interim Order dated 25.6.1991 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

(CWDT) and sent to the Party States for their comments on 30.5.1997.

The scheme will be finalised strictly on merits after examining the comments of all the basin States. Thereafter a meeting with these States can be held to narrow down the differences to the extent possible. The finalised scheme will then be placed before the Cabinet for its approval, and after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet, the same will be notified and will be laid before each House of the Parliament for a period of 30 days.

The Parliament will have a right to make modifications which may include a decision for not having such a scheme at all, and scheme will then come into effect only in the modified form.

(c) The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry have by and large, agreed to the draft scheme with some changes and the Government of Kerala has requested for some more time to give their comments. However, Government of Karnataka have expressed strong opposition to the draft scheme and they have requested the Government of India, inter alia, to initiate action to settle the dispute through mutual discussions. Further, they have also requested the Central Government to simultaneously take steps for early finalisation of the National Policy Guidelines for water allocation amongst States.

Manufacture of Air Defence Ship

1880. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to manufacture indigenously Air Defence Ship (ADS) as reported in the Statesman dated June 23, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether building of an Air Defence Ship may take upto 10 years and that the present force levels of ships and submarines would drop considerably in a decade from now;

(d) if so, the cost likely to be incurred on the manufacturing of the said ship;

(e) whether the capacity utilisation at Mazagon Dock Limited has been at very low level particularly on the submarine side which has been lying practically idle since May, 1994 and may lead to dissipation of such technical expertise; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal for construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS).

(c) Yes, Sir. Construction of ADS would take around 10 years. In the meantime adequate force level would be maintained through suitable replacements, acquisitions, etc.

(d) The cost is likely to be about Rs. 1700 crores.

(e) and (f) Government have recently approved a proposal for construction of two submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in order to utilise the expertise and facilities available with MDL as also to catch up with the force levels.

UNDP Report

1881. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India stands 138th in the Human Resources Development Index out of 175 countries in the world, as per the report of UNDP 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparatively lower life expectancy at birth, lower literacy level and low real per capita Gross Domestic Product are the reasons for the low ranking.

(c) As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the objectives of the Plan, inter-alia, include accelerating the growth rate of the economy, providing basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.

ISRO Buys Titanium

1882. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "ISRO buys titanium, gets bricks" appearing in the *Deccan Chronicle* dated June 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Mishra Dhatu Nigam had imported aluminium vanadium alloy from a German firm and after converting the same into titanium alloy, it was supplied to ISRO;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consignment of 1,000 kgs of aluminium vanadium master alloy valued at Rs. 7.5 lakhs imported by Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. (MIDHANI) from Germany was found to have been pilfered and substituted by construction bricks. This was discovered immediately after MIDHANI's clearing agent had delivered the consignment to the company's representatives at Bombay.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MIDHANI has been importing aluminium vanadium master alloy from Germany for meeting its production requirements of titanium alloy for supply to ISRO.

(e) An FIR has been lodged with the police against the pilferage and the State Government of Maharashtra has been requested to expedite investigations.

International Status to Amritsar Airport

1883. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken and facilities extended to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given full fledged status and facilities of an international Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Amritsar airport has already some facilities to cater to limited international flights. Extension of runway, construction of technical block-cum-control tower and extension of apron are being planned. Air India has also been asked to resume its flights to Birmingham. Further upgradation of facilities will depend on the volume of traffic and availability of funds.

Cracks in Taj Mahal

1884. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cracks have appeared in the Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to repair the cracks and the time by which the repair work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) As per old records, some structural cracks had developed in the Taj Mahal immediately after it was constructed. Most of them have been treated but some of them are